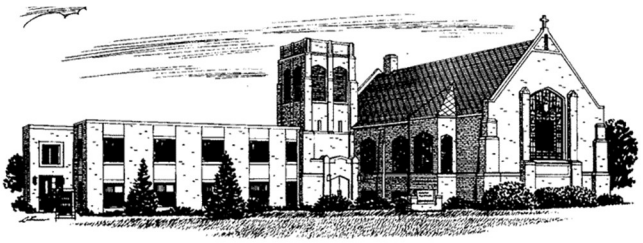
SARON MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085



Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook:www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Music Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com

Irma Gorman, Organist

Amanda Bradley, Admin Assistant
Cell: 419-306-5780
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
bradley717@gmail.com

Megan Savage, Bookkeeper
Email: financial@saronlutheran.org

Sara Porter, Childcare Specialist
Email: portersara20@gmail.com

Typical Sunday at Saron:
Fall, Winter and Spring (beginning Sept 11):
8:30am Worship On-Location
9:40 Learning Hour for Ages 2-Adult
11am Worship with Zoom Option
Nursery Available

Summer of 2023 (beginning June 4):
10am Worship
On-Location and via Zoom
Nursery Available
No Learning Hour

We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia
Saron's Mission: *Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!*

PASTOR JOAN'S ARTICLE FOR OCTOBER 2022

I am off later today to (likely) purchase a new cell phone. All of a sudden, my present phone is no longer working. (Well, perhaps not as sudden as I'd like to think. I now realize I've been ignoring the signs there was some sort of problem.) I do not like the thought of being disconnected, even if only for a day. What will I miss? What information might I lose in the transfer to a new phone? Or, will it simply be an easy fix? If you are anything like me, you are connected to your phone, even if sometimes too connected. But what about our connection to God? I am delighted that in these next weeks, October 2-November 6, we will be exploring how we are connecting with God through Saron's various ministries - worship and music, prayer, learning, service, and the communion of saints. (More details are offered elsewhere in this newsletter.) There will be a variety of opportunities that I encourage you to fully engage in. We begin with a Music Sunday when we will worship God and consider how music connects us - to God and to each other, how it can strengthen our faith for daily living. A variety of folks will offer their musical gifts on that day (at both services), offering back to God what God has first given them and us. As we take time to intentionally consider "Connecting with God" we will be mindful that God is always there connecting with us. God comes in word and sacrament. God comes through the work of the Holy Spirit. God comes embodied in our Savior and through the gift of community. God comes daily and faithfully, offering the gifts of grace, mercy, and forgiveness. God comes and calls us to respond, *joyfully sharing God's love for all!!!* "We love because God first loved us." 1 John 4:19

-Pastor Joan

Introducing
Maisie James Skudlarczyk,
born September 13 to
Gretchen & JJ.
Pastor Joan and Jim could not be more thrilled to welcome another grandchild!

General Information

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Watch weekly emails and door signage for any change in protocol. As of printing, masks are encouraged for those who feel so inclined but not required. Nursery workers and communion assistants will wear masks.

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Joan
Monday-Thursday Mornings
Amanda Bradley (Admin Assistant):
Mondays & Thursdays 8am-noon
Wednesdays as needed
Helping Hands Office Volunteers:
Wednesdays 9:00am-11am (approx)
Megan Savage (Bookkeeper):
Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30pm

When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (269/983-1273) or contacting the council president.

Note: Emails for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org to ensure privacy. Emails to Amanda and the church office should be sent to info@saronlutheran.org.

Caring and Sharing

IN OUR PRAYERS

Bernice Koski is at Woodland Terrace in Bridgman;
Kathleen & Phillip Preston are at Caretel in St. Joseph;
Tom Taylor is at Caretel in St. Joseph.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members!

10/1 Katie Kroening
10/1 Nolan Becker
10/2 Steven Cook
10/2 Judy Wedde
10/4 Mary Kynast
10/4 James Oleson
10/7 Amy Nelson
10/8 Jonathon Peterson
10/10 Hannah Breyen
10/12 Andrew Olson
10/13 Kerrie Hoodlebrink
10/14 Pauline Ngonyani
10/15 Betsy Becker
10/15 Elias Coar
10/16 Kristine Weber
10/17 Savannah Talbert
10/18 Katherine Ulrey
10/19 Robert Baumgartner
10/20 Keith Stevens
10/24 Matthew Baumgartner
10/26 Amanda Bradley
10/26 Gary Cowall
10/29 Donald Moely
10/31 Ivan Kiessel

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members!

10/6 Charlene & Robert Baumgartner
10/13 Sue & Dave Bailey

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round!"

If there are any omissions from the birthday or anniversary list, or if a date is incorrect, please let us know so we can get it correct in the future!

WELCOME

We are excited to announce Sara Porter has joined our staff as a Childcare Specialist. She will manage the nursery on Sunday mornings.
If you see her around the building, make sure to say a warm *hello*!

CONGRATULATIONS

Matilda Alice Danielski was born on August 8 to Laura & Andrew. Proud grandparents are Mary Alice and Ed Brunner. What a beautiful little blessing!

Charcuterie
char·cu·te·rie / shär-ˌkü-tə-'rē / *n.*

(1) *Fr.*, literally the products of a fancy pork butcher; (2) *modern*, wooden boards piled high with meats and tasty accompaniments such as cheese, produce, crackers, toast, artisan breads, dips, and sauces; (3) a feast at Saron on Nov 6th to celebrate our ability to give back to God.

Yes, our Fall 2022 stewardship focus, **Connecting with God,** will culminate on Celebration Sunday, November 6, 2022. After our festive All Saints worship and the offering of 2023 commitments, all are invited to join together in the Dining Hall after each service to enjoy a charcuterie feast and fellowship.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Celebration Sunday, but there are also plenty of opportunities during October for each of us to strengthen our personal connection with God to help us fulfill our duty as stewards of all that God has given us. Key happenings include:

Weekly devotional email [starting October 3]

Connecting with God through Worship and Music [Temple Talk – Marcus Roll; Music Fest at each service; Sunday, October 2]

Connecting with God through Learning [Temple Talk – Ed Staude; Sunday, October 9]

Connecting with God through Prayer [Temple Talk – Connie Slater; Sunday, October 16]

An Open Mic with God, A Day of Prayer for Saron [Friday, October 21, noon to 4:30 pm]

Connecting with God through Service [Temple Talk – Karen Johnson; Sunday, October 23]

Connecting with God through Church Life at Saron [Temple Talk – Ted Dosch and Ministry Fair following each service; Sunday, October 30]

Connecting with God through the Community of Saints [Celebration Sunday; saint portrayals at each service followed by Charcuterie Feast; Sunday, November 6]

Look for more details in the weekly emails, monthly newsletters, and the U.S. mail.

We hope that each of you will embrace and commit to this year's stewardship journey. The gifts we offer in response to what God has done for us do make a difference – in the Saron community, our local community, and the world.

We love because God first loved us.

1 John 4:19 (ISV)

FORTIFY & fly

Have you visited our new website since it went live? We're still learning and adding new things (greatly expanded history coming soon) but we're excited with the fresh aesthetic and hope it effectively communicates our mission and personality to the community. The address is the same: saronlutheran.org. Check it out!

We're also continuing to explore new signage for the alley and outdoor lighting options, as well as new spring bulbs and bushes for along the church in the courtyard.

At the end of August 2022, we had collected an additional $223 for a total of $376,926 towards our pledge total of $367,205. If you still have a pledge to fulfill or simply wish to continue giving, we will gratefully accept your gift. Thank you for being with us on this journey!

Worship

Are you interested in becoming a member of Saron or learning more about the faith from the Lutheran perspective? If so, contact Pastor Joan.

Nursery service is available during worship. In order to utilize the space most effectively, this option is primarily directed towards our youngest members and guests. For preschoolers that occasionally need more physical and/or emotional space, activities are available in the narthex. There are also clipboards with coloring pages, as well as children's bulletins, to assist kids as they transition into participating in worship. **It's vital to embrace family units in all stages in our congregation and as such, we gladly welcome wiggles and giggles in worship!**

The goal of the nursery is to provide a safe environment to facilitate a meaningful worship experience for families negotiating life with children. We recognize that may not look the same for all and encourage sharing concerns and suggestions.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us Mondays at 11am for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship or via other means. We meet in the sanctuary.

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

We will continue the Zoom fellowship at 11am as long as there is interest. The link remains the same each week and is sent out on Tuesdays.

ALTAR FLOWERS

You can sponsor a week by using the link in the weekly email or by calling the church office. Make sure to note any special occasion to be recognized in the bulletin. Flowers are $35 per vase. Checks can be payable to Saron with "Flowers" as the memo. Thank you for beautifying our worship space! Please take them home after the 2nd service to enjoy. **Simply return the vase to Saron.**

FACEBOOK

We often share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you have questions, or prefer your picture not to appear, please contact Pastor.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

October 2: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 9: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15
Psalm 111
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 16: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 23: Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22
Psalm 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

October 30: Reformation Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth group (grades 6-12) met for supper and a summer gathering at the home of Brooke Henderson on August 24. Thank you, Kristen Harper, for opening your lovely home - we took advantage of your great backyard and rec room to play games. It was fun to have a couple of new friends join us. Extra thanks to all who used their artistic talents that night to create some great illustrations for the upcoming Stewardship devotional.

For our next gathering, mark your calendars for Sunday, October 9th! We are planning to meet after the 11am service to take part in the rescheduled *God's Work. Our Hands.* service project at the Boys and Girls Club. We'll have lunch at Saron then head over to help with a much needed clean out of outbuildings at the club. Timeframe is 2-3 hours. Adults from church will be going as well. Your help would be most appreciated. Hope you can come!

Contact Merrily at merrilyannsmith@gmail.com with any questions.

Learning

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

SUNDAY LEARNING HOUR

We offer a time of age-appropriate study between the two services (9:40am-10:30am):

- **Grades 5 and Under** meet in the Sunday school classroom.
- **Confirmation Students** (Grades 6-8) meet in the confirmation classroom.
- **Adult Forum** meets in the upstairs lounge.

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING FORUM & FELLOWSHIP

We've gotten off to a good start but people are always welcome to jump in/out as time and topic interest dictate. We are currently discussing the ELCA Statement on the Environment. My goal for our final time on this, Wednesday, October 5, is to get a speaker. This is intended to be a stand-alone presentation so it will not be necessary to have attended the prior sessions to participate. Watch the weekly announcements for details. The next topic, beginning on Wednesday, October 19, will be refugees and immigrants. The Bible has multiple references about caring for the stranger, the alien among us. How does this play out in our modern world? Forum & Fellowship meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7pm. All are welcome!

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Make sure to join us for the 12-week study we've begun of the Israelites as they cross into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua (study sponsored by The Gospel Coalition). **We meet Tuesday evenings at 6pm in the upstairs lounge for one hour then adjourn to a local restaurant for food and fellowship. All are welcome!**

Week 1: Sept 13 - Overview (review Deuteronomy or at least the last few chapters)
Week 2: Sept 20 - An Old Promise, a New Leader (Joshua 1:1-18)
Week 3: Sept 27 - Sending in the Spies, Finding a Surprise (Joshua 2:1-24)
Week 4: Oct 4 - Crossing the Jordan, Getting Right with God (Joshua 3:1-5:15)
Week 5: Oct 11 - A Foolish Plan, a Decisive Outcome (Joshua 6:1–27)
Week 6: Oct 18 - Two Piles of Stones, One Crucial Lesson (Joshua 7:1–8:35)
Week 7: Oct 25 - Taking More Land, Hanging More Kings (Joshua 9:1–12:24)
Week 8: Nov 1 - Putting Down Roots, Receiving God's Inheritance (Joshua 13:1–19:51)
Week 9: Nov 8 - Cities for Justice, People for Worship (Joshua 20:1–21:45)
Week 10: Nov 15 - An Altar of Remembrance, an Unforgettable Altercation (Joshua 22:1–34)
Week 11: Nov 22 - Joshua Dies in the Land, the Promise of Rest Lives On (Joshua 23:1–24:33)
Week 12: Nov 23 - Summary and Conclusion
Nov 29 - Advent Break Begins

If you have any questions, feel free to call, text, or email:
Bob Kynast (269-921-2786, bobkynast@gmail.com)
Don Hafer (269-985-3637, hafer.don@gmail.com)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We have started a new 6-week study, entitled *Acts: Catching up with the Spirit* by Matt Skinner. In this study, led by Pastor Joan, "*Skinner explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian message, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world*.*

We meet Thursday mornings in the lounge from 9:30am-11am. Contact Pastor Joan if you have any questions. This class is open to all interested in attending. You are welcome to join anytime, for one session or many.

*from the website

On October 2 at 6:30pm in the upstairs lounge, we are ready to get started on another year of good reads and even better discussions! The first book on our list is "The Lincoln Highway," by Amor Towles. Spanning just ten days in 1954 and told from multiple points of view, the story of 18-year-old Emmett Watson unfolds. A car trip to California with his 8-year-old-brother to find their long-lost mother turns in the opposite direction toward New York City and the reader is in for a wild ride. Hard to stop reading once begun.

Keeping the momentum going on November 6 is "One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot," by Marianne Cronin. You won't want to miss this wonderful read. Come and join us at either session. There will be a Zoom component for these meetings for those that wish. Information will be sent by email to those who have expressed interest in our group. Questions? Please contact Kathy Cowall at (269)428-0354 or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"I am a reader not because I don't have a life, but because I choose to have many." (Reign of Reads)

Women of the ELCA

DEBORAH CIRCLE

Deborah Circle will meet at 7pm on Wednesday, October 12, on-location in the church lounge. Zoom will be available. The link will be emailed closer to the meeting date. Study leader will be Linda Pater.

Contact Melanie McCammon at 269/449-8399 for more information about this group.

Hospitality

SUNDAY SNACKS

Who doesn't love a snack during a time of fellowship in the narthex? If you would like to be a Sunday snack host, sign up via the link in our weekly email or call/email the office so Amanda can sign you up. Please plan for 30 to partake. Thank you!

Outreach

Lutheran World Relief

Saron Church Women began collecting items for Lutheran World Relief on September 11 and will conclude this effort on **Sunday, October 2**. Donation options from the congregation include "Personal Care Kits", "Fabric Kits" and cash donations for shipping costs. LWR distributes items worldwide, wherever they are needed.

Plastic resealable kit bags are available in the narthex. Each bag contains a list of needed items. Completed kits should be placed in labeled boxes under the white table in the center of the narthex. **Shipping cost donations can be cash or a check made payable to Saron Church Women with "LWR shipping costs" as the memo.** These donations may be given to Colleen Lundgren, Denise Cook or Melanie McCammon.

Thank you very much in advance for your generosity in supporting this ministry!

NOISY OFFERING

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

We receive a noisy offering (or those not-so-noisy bills) on the first Sunday of each month.
These gifts are sent to ELCA World Hunger.
Thank you for your generous offerings!

God's work. Our hands.

Although the weather did not cooperate for all of our plans, we were thrilled to participate in the September 11 Day of Service in two ways. First, during the Learning Hour, Saron youth sorted the school supplied collected throughout August and prepared them to be taken to Eau Claire. We also wrote notes of encouragement to teachers and school administrators, wishing them a good year. Later, after the second service, those volunteering had a pizza lunch then drove to the Readiness Center to cut papers to be used throughout the year for learning projects**.** Thanks to all who were involved! Check out all the pictures at the end of the newsletter.

The outdoor work planned at the Girls & Boys Club has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 9. Check out the weekly email for more information and a link to sign-up. There's also a clipboard in the narthex.

BENTON HARBOR SOUP KITCHEN

Simple food, honestly sourced and lovingly made creates connections, gives fuel to the fight, and starves ignorance and apathy. - Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

On August 25, Saron members Marilyn & Brad Frey, Jim Manore, and Dave & Kathie Bradley were busy at the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen preparing lunches for 100 guests. Guests enjoyed a ham dinner which included potato salad, coleslaw, fruit, pickles, bread and homemade cookies.

If you are able to help with the preparation and serving or by providing cookies, please use the link in the weekly email or contact Kathie Bradley at 269-921-4665.

Thank you to all who continue to support this ministry with your time, contributions, and prayers.
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!

INCLUSIVITY TASK FORCE

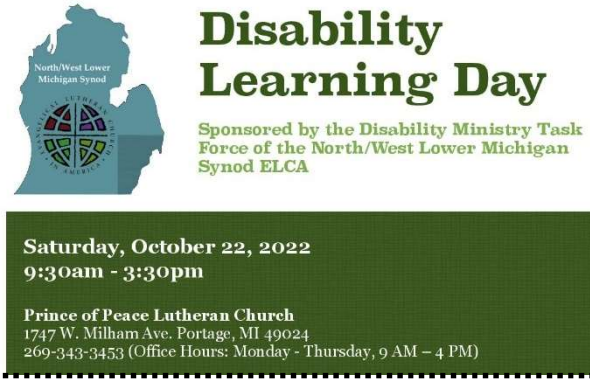
The Inclusivity Task Force is committed to extending a welcome to all. Our congregation adopted the following welcome statement and is a **Reconciling in Christ** church.

As a community of faith who *joyfully shares God's love for all*, we believe our lives and faith are strengthened by diversity. We strive to be a community who welcomes people of every ability, age, citizenship status, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, language, marital status, political perspective, race, and sexual orientation. We are committed to the work of racial equity. Whatever life's circumstance, we openly welcome and value you. We celebrate God's unconditional love and respond joyfully to your presence here. All are welcome. You are welcome.

If you ever have any questions or need clarification on our inclusivity journey, please feel free to call any one of the task force members:

Connor Ashley: cashley1837@outlook.com
Laurel Gacek: 269/470-6062 or mlmg2445@sbcglobal.net
Laura Hicks: 517/930-0579 or lhicks42@gmail.com
Darlene Kiessel: 269/313-4062 or kiessel@me.com
Diane Madej (Open Hearts. Open Church): 231/670-0328 or dianemadej234@gmail.com
Pr Joan Oleson: 269/983-1273 or oleson@saronlutheran.org

Join in for a day of learning and fellowship, covering topics such as Radical Welcome & Varied Abilities, Best Practices for Building Belonging, Aging & Dementia, Autism Spectrum, Accessible Worship, Biblical Perspective on Disability, and Practical Perspective of Disability & Ministry. Cost is $20 and includes lunch and book. Registration closes on 10/14. Pastor Joan is attending and would love some company!


North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Disability Learning Day
Sponsored by the Disability Ministry Task Force of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod ELCA
Saturday, October 22, 2022
9:30am - 3:30pm
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1747 W. Milham Ave. Portage, MI 49024
269-343-3453 (Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 AM – 4 PM)

Interfaith Action

Interfaith Action (swmichiganinterfaith.org) is a coalition of over 40 faith communities in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties. Some members of Saron attend meetings and work with various task force groups. One of the goals of Interfaith Action is to promote understanding and respect for diversity.

Join us for:

Interfaith Action
of SW Michigan

Celebration of the Harvest and Harvesters

OCTOBER 9, 2022 | 3-4PM

TABOR HILL VINEYARDS TENT
333 MOUNT TABOR ROAD
BUCHANAN, MI 49107
TABOR HILL PRIVATE EVENT ENTRANCE

Support

The Support Committee will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 8pm via Zoom. Contact Don Hafer with any questions at 269/985-3637.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with TD Ameritrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, email Joe Ulrey at josephulrey@yahoo.com to receive more information. Thanks!

Facilities

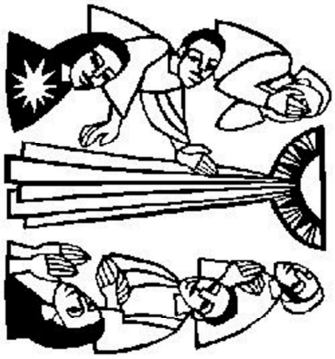
HELPING HANDS (Previously Golden Hammers)

We do all sorts of things from building maintenance to preps for worship in the sanctuary to assembling bulletins and newsletters and so much more. We meet on Wednesdays around 9am and know you are invited – whatever your age, gender, or ability. There is a job for you to use your helping hands.

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

On All Saints Sunday, November 6, we will remember at worship those who have gone before us and joined the church triumphant. If you would like someone to be remembered by name, please respond with the following information by 8am on Monday, October 31.

Please note we begin the list of those remembered new each year. We do not carry names forward, unless asked to do so. Also, please print names as clearly as possible to minimize transfer errors.



PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED: _____

RELATIONSHIP (BROTHER, MOTHER, ETC): _____

PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED: _____

RELATIONSHIP (BROTHER, MOTHER, ETC): _____

PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED: _____

RELATIONSHIP (BROTHER, MOTHER, ETC): _____

PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED: _____

RELATIONSHIP (BROTHER, MOTHER, ETC): _____

PERSON SUBMITTING REQUEST: _____

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**3** 11am Prayer Group Pastor on Vacation	**4** 6pm Bible Study	**5** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee 7pm Forum & Fellowship Group	**6** 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**7**	**8**
9 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option 1pm Boys & Girls Club Service Project	**10** 11am Prayer Group	**11** 6pm Bible Study 8pm Support Meeting	**12** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee 7pm Deborah Circle	**13** 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**14**	**15**
16 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**17** 11am Prayer Group 7pm Council Meeting **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**	**18** 6pm Bible Study	**19** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee 7pm Forum & Fellowship Group	**20** 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal	**21**	**22**
23/30 8:30am Worship 9:40am Learning Hour 11am Worship with Zoom Option	**24/31** 11am Prayer Group	**25** 6pm Bible Study	**26** 9am Helping Hands 11am Zoom Coffee	**27** 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Bells Rehearsal 7pm Choir Rehearsal **Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen Day**	**28**	**29**